

IN RECOGNITION OF MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE MARVIN JOHNSON JR.'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. TED BUDD

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate Major General George Marvin Johnson Jr. on his one hundredth birthday.

General Johnson had a long and distinguished military career that started when he first joined the Army Air Corps in 1941 to when he retired in 1975 as a United States Air Force Major General. He selflessly served during World War II in the European Theater of Operations as an operations officer and troop carrier squadron commander, and participated in seven major campaigns. General Johnson has also served as a commander of the Oklahoma City Air Materiel Area, Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma and was chief of staff of the Air Force Logistics Command at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio.

General Johnson's military distinctions and awards are many. They include the Distinguished Service Medal with oak leaf cluster, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal, and the French Croix de Guerre. He was also awarded a command pilot rating with over 6,000 flying hours.

It is with the utmost gratitude that I thank General Johnson for his service and congratulate him on celebrating this birthday of one hundred years. He has served our country with distinction and honor, and can be proud of his contributions towards protecting our citizens and strengthening the safety of our country. May his one hundredth year be filled with blessings.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in honoring Major General George Marvin Johnson Jr. for his service to our great nation and for celebrating his one hundredth birthday.

NO ASSISTANCE FOR ASSAD ACT

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, since 2011, Bashar Al-Assad purposely and systemically destroyed Syrian communities in order to crush political opponents and retain absolute dictatorial power, with the help of his Russian and Iranian backers. Starting as peaceful protests, the people of Syria demanded basic freedoms from the Syrian government. Of course, this was met with a harsh crackdown, prolonged conflict, and today, a humanitarian crisis. As co-chair of the Friends of a Free, Stable and Democratic Syria Caucus, I believe we in Congress must do all we can to ensure that the welfare of the Syrian people remains the top priority of our involvement in the region, and condition any engagement with the Assad regime as such.

My heart goes out to every Syrian that has to monitor the skies to see what aerial attacks

will be coming that day; to every child that has been robbed of their innocence—forced to leave their home and live in constant fear, denied a basic education—and to every family member left wondering if their relatives will live to see the next day. We've all seen the images in Syria. They're hard to stomach. Yet, the attacks persist. The violence and ruthlessness persist. Assad and his supporters in Russia and Iran are responsible for all of this pain and suffering.

H.R. 4681, the No Assistance for Assad Act, would ensure that American assistance for reconstruction in Syria should be available in areas controlled by Assad only if the regime stops its indiscriminate use of weapons, ends attacks on civilians and civilian facilities, releases political prisoners, allows human rights organizations access to prisons, and removes senior officials complicit in human-rights abuses. If the Assad regime, Russia, and Iran continue to break Syria, this legislation makes clear they must own the responsibility for rebuilding it. U.S. policy must not allow the regime in Damascus control American dollars that are meant to rebuild the country.

I was proud to introduce this critical legislation with Ranking Member ENGEL, Chairman ROYCE, and my fellow caucus co-chair, ADAM KINZINGER. I thank them for their hard work on this legislation and urge passage of this timely, important legislation.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes:

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my common sense amendment that will protect consumers by creating the position of the Aviation Consumer Advocate at the FAA. More than nine million flights take off and land in the United States every year. In my home state of Oregon, nearly 20 million people passed through the Portland International Airport last year, and that number will continue to grow.

Unfortunately, many passengers have experienced inconveniences such as lost luggage and delayed flights that result in missed connections. Some passengers have experienced much worse, including being forcibly removed from flights when seats are oversold, or sitting on a tarmac for hours.

With more than two and a half million people flying U.S. skies every day, it is critical that they have somewhere to turn if things go wrong. They deserve to be treated with dignity and to have a reliable advocate who is on their side.

My simple amendment would enhance the FAA's existing Aviation Consumer Protection Division by creating the position of the Aviation Consumer Advocate.

This will provide travelers a dedicated person at the FAA to help navigate the Aviation Consumer Protection Division and try to resolve problems that arise with airlines.

In addition to helping travelers, the Aviation Consumer Advocate would provide the FAA with recommendations on how best to enforce consumer protection rules and improve the flying experience.

The Aviation Consumer Advocate would also evaluate the FAA's response to complaints, and provide a report to Congress about the volume and frequency of complaints, as well as recommendations on how Congress can take action to bolster consumer protections for fliers.

This is a common sense amendment to protect all our constituents.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in strengthening consumer protections and supporting the millions of Americans who fly every day.

**TRIBUTE TO ANNABELL AND
LAVERNE BROWN**

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 27, 2018

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Annabell and Laverne Brown of Mount Ayr, Iowa on the very special occasion of their 70th wedding anniversary. They celebrated their anniversary on March 12, 2018.

Annabell and Laverne's lifelong commitment to each other and their family truly embodies our Iowa values. As they reflect on their 70th anniversary, may their commitment grow even stronger, as they continue to love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 70th year together and I wish them many more. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion and in wishing them both nothing but continued success.

FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2018

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2018

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4) to reauthorize programs of the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes:

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. This bill would shore up long-term funding for critical FAA programs and authorize additional disaster program funding for areas like Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, which are still struggling to bounce back after the 2017 hurricane season.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of a recently adopted amendment, which will help ensure the safety of the national airspace by prohibiting individuals from operating unmanned aircraft systems that are equipped or armed with a dangerous weapon.